

Mars Rover launch to put spacecraft on yearlong journey

Two new ISS modules arrive at KSC for processing



▲ ELV Update: The launch of Mars Exploration Rover 2 is set for Sunday, June 8, at 2:05:55 p.m. EDT. Launch site is Complex 17-A, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. At left is MER-2 with the fairing installed around it in the launch tower. The launch vehicle is a Delta 7925 rocket supported by nine solid rocket boosters. NASA's twin Mars Exploration Rovers are designed to study the history of water on Mars. These robotic geologists are equipped with a robotic arm, a drilling tool, three spectrometers, and four pairs of cameras that allow them to have a human-like, 3D view of the terrain. Each rover could travel as far as 100 meters in one day to act as Mars scientists' eyes and hands, exploring an environment where humans can't yet go.



▲ ISS Update: After traveling thousands of miles, two major components of the International Space Station completed the first leg of a journey that will eventually end 240 miles above the Earth. NASA's Node 2, built for the agency by the European Space Agency (ESA) in Italy, and the Pressurized Module of the Japanese Experiment Module (JEM) arrived at KSC this week via air and sea, respectively. The arrival of Node 2, the next pressurized module to be installed on the Station, sets in motion the final steps toward completing assembly of essential U.S. components. When installed, Node 2 will increase the living and working space inside the Space Station to approximately 18,000 cubic feet. It will also allow the addition of international laboratories from Europe and Japan. The JEM also includes an exposed facility (platform) for space environment experiments, a robotic manipulator system, and two logistics modules. The various JEM components will be assembled in space over the

course of three Shuttle missions. Node 2 is scheduled for launch on mission STS-120, date and orbiter still undetermined. The JEM mission, numbered 1J, is not scheduled until 2005.

◆ **Education Opportunity** – UCF will offer an Accelerated Master of Science Program in "Systems Engineering & Management" beginning August 2003. You can complete your Masters degree in 21 months, without sacrificing your weekend time that is needed for family, hobbies, or relaxation. A \$100.00 Cash Prize will be given to the first 30 students to enroll in the program. For more information, contact Mr. Hampton at 407-823-2204/ ehampton@mail.ucf.edu, or Carol Cox, at KSC, 321-452-9904/ ccox@mail.ucf.edu.

◆ **Reminder** – The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation barbecue is Saturday, June 7. The event is a fundraiser for preservation of the lighthouse. Tickets, which are tax deductible, are \$25 per person, and admission is via bus only from the CCAFS Pass & ID building, starting at 4 p.m. Picnic-goers will be able to visit up to the third or fourth floors inside the lighthouse.

◆ **Massage Therapy** – Hours are extended, now from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at KSC! Do you need to relieve some stress, relax, and feel a sense of well-being? Are your muscles sore? Call Valerie Jaramillo, licensed massage therapist, at 321-543-1047 to schedule your appointment.

◆ **Did You Know?** Hurricane season opened June 1! In the event KSC is closed due to severity of storm damage, return to work information will be broadcast over local media and available on the Hurricane Information Hotline, 861-7900.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

Deadlines: 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail – Anita.Barrett-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Telephone – 321-867-2815

Find KSC Countdown on the Internet at <http://www.pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscbao/ksccount/2003.htm>